

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

USE EXCLUSION

(Acre)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

Excluding animals, people or vehicles from an area.

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

PURPOSE

- To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area
- To maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources or
- To minimize liability and human health concerns.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Additional Criteria to Prevent, Restrict, or Control Access to an Area

A minimal area can be left for livestock access and watering. Access will be limited and the area stabilized from erosion.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Practice applies on all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed.

Access to an area for livestock water will be perpendicular to the identified source.

The treatment area shall extend an appropriate distance into the watering access to provide adequate and reliable water.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable for All Purposes

Barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

Provide access locations at least one every quarter mile or as needed to provide adequate watering access due to pasture layouts.

Foundation preparation shall consist of removal and disposal of soil and other material that is not adequate to support the design loads.

Refer to NRCS National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Part 650, Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 16 - Streambank and Shoreline Protection for details and specifications on lakeshore watering access, streambank watering access, and floating electric fence.

Livestock access facilities shall have a stable surface. The surface may be coarse aggregate, concrete, or natural bedrock.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement.

Barriers should account for and minimize public safety activities such as fire control.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying Use Exclusion shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

Fencing materials chosen by the landowner shall provide exclusion of livestock. Fencing will consist of woven wire, barbed wire, or Electrified High Tensile wire as outlined in the Conservation Practice Standard, Fence - Practice Code 382 and shall be constructed to meet the practice standard.

Fencing around ponds and lakes shall be located no closer than 25 horizontal feet from the normal water line. The earth fill and emergency spillway shall also be fenced from livestock accessibility.

Fences constructed to improve or maintain water quality will be a minimum of 50 feet from any perennial stream, pond or lake.

Livestock Access: All planned work shall comply with Federal, state, and local laws, regulation, and ordinances.

Provisions shall be made for surface and subsurface drainage, as needed, and for disposal of runoff without causing erosion or

water quality impairment. All treatment areas shall be shaped to prevent ponding of water.

Aggregate: The total minimum thickness for a fine and/or coarse aggregate surface shall be as needed but in no case shall be less than 6 inches.

Geotextile: Geotextile shall be considered on all sites with a soft or wet foundation. NRCS National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Parts 642 and 643 (formerly NEH, Section 20) provide guidance for specifying AASHTO M-288 (latest edition) may be used in the selection of the geotextile. Illinois Construction Specification for geotextile may be used in lieu of, or in conjunction with the previous reference.

Vegetative Measures: Liming, fertilizing, soil preparation, seeding, sodding, and vegetation management shall be in accordance with the planned use and Conservation Practice Standard Critical Area Planting, Practice Code - 342.

The top surface of the watering access in a channel shall be a minimum of 6 inches below the existing channel bottom.

The ramp for the access shall extend up to the existing top of bank elevation.

Ramp slope shall be 6 (horizontal) to 1 (vertical) or flatter. An alternative configuration is a stair step access with a minimum tread (horizontal distance) of 6 feet and a maximum rise (vertical distance) of 9 inches.

Coarse aggregate shall conform to ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials) Specification C33 unless otherwise shown on the construction drawings or designated by the engineer. The size number shall be between 1 and 467, as defined in Table 2 ASTM C33. Fine aggregate may be size number 5 through 67.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers and access ramps will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.